

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 309**  
**Asked on Wednesday 8 March 2006**

**MS MALE** asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)–

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Government's sustainable housing program which came into effect recently–

What are the environmental design requirements for dwellings to be built in Queensland from this point on?

**ANSWER:**

The sustainable building requirements will make new houses more energy and water efficient. The requirements for new housing include:

- energy-efficient lighting for at least 40 per cent of the house;
- greenhouse-efficient hot water systems;
- water-saving shower roses to achieve at least 3 star or AAA performance;
- devices to limit water pressure in areas with high water pressure; and
- toilets to be dual-flush with a maximum cistern size of 6 litres on full flush and 3 litres on half flush.

In addition, councils will be able to require the installation of rainwater tanks in new houses in designated areas where it can be shown there is a community benefit from doing so.

These requirements apply to houses and townhouses. Three of the measures will also apply to units, namely energy-efficient lighting, 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets. Two of the measures also apply to major renovations, namely 3 star or AAA shower roses and dual-flush toilets.

The sustainable housing regulations will reduce energy use in new houses by 34%, cutting household greenhouse gas emissions by a third.

The impact of these savings will grow as more new houses are built and, after 12 years, annual savings will be equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from a small coal-fired power station such as Queensland's 188 MW Collinsville Power Station.